

NLK-77-1038

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To restore the precarious balance quickly and effectively we could launch a massive conventional air attack on these ~~missile~~ ^{missile} ~~xxx~~ ~~xxxx~~ sites but with the hope that reason will prevail, that lives -- Soviet, Cuban and American -- can be saved -- I have decided to institute this ~~missile~~ ^{missile} blockade instead and thereby stop the Soviet buildup of long-range ~~missile~~ capability in Cuba. In order to persuade the Soviets to pause in their reckless course while there is yet time I am instructing Ambassador Stevenson to ~~xxx~~ propose to the Security Council of the United Nations steps to prevent surprise attack from all foreign strategic nuclear ~~missile~~ ^{missile} sites everywhere, to guarantee the territorial integrity of Cuba, /

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The Soviet Union's clandestine action in Cuba has endangered the whole world and made the control of arms all the more urgent. The United States stands ready to discuss with the Soviet Union the elimination of all strategic bases on foreign soil in the context of the disarmament treaties now under consideration, ~~xxx~~ including the NATO bases in Turkey and Italy.

SANITIZED

U.S. ARCHIVIST (NLK-77-1038)
BY W. M. M. NARS, DATE 6/8/81

~~TOP SECRET~~

Our objective is to remove this threat peaceably and to avoid war with all of its unpredictable consequences. Put the security of the country and the hemisphere is my responsibility and if proposals which will insure the security of Cuba and diminish the danger to the Soviet Union are not acceptable implications will be clear and I will have to reconsider my decision.

~~SECRET~~